

EXPLAIN THE SITUATION PROBLEMS

(= Resolve the Paradox)

what's the general idea? a situation in which something might be expected to happen but the opposite happens

EXPLAIN THE SURPRISING RESULT

town A fewer smoking than town B
However, A lung cancer 2x as B lung cancer

TEMPLATE:

_Difference in smoking rates___ has happened/is true/is happening.

Normally this would mean ___more smoking more cancer___

THIS TIME, _more cancer in the town with LESS smoking_____ has happened/is true/is happening instead.

We need: what explains MORE cancer (as %) in a town with less smoking
possible answers:

air pollution, occupational hazards, smoking things other than cigarettes

overall review EXPLAIN THE SITUATION

1. PRIMARY CHALLENGE: understand what the question actually is!

complete the TEMPLATE:

_____ has happened/is true/is happening -> CAUSE, in passage

Normally this would mean _____ -> EFFECT, figure this out

THIS TIME, __has happened/is true/is happening instead ->EFFECT, in passage

2. correct answer will ALWAYS be OUTSIDE THE SCOPE of the passage (in at least some way), the whole point of this type is the information is NOT given
 - if you see a choice that *does* stay INSIDE the scope of the passage, then it's incorrect
3. REASONABLE ASSUMPTION to make connections required - NO FORMAL LOGIC

(Questions from GMATPrep)

1. For several years, per capita expenditure on prescription drugs in Voronia rose by fifteen percent or more annually. In order to curb these dramatic increases, the ministry of health prohibited drug manufacturers from raising any of their products' prices. Even though use of prescription drugs did not expand after this price freeze, per capita expenditure for prescription drugs continued to increase by a substantial percentage each year.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why the ministry's action did not achieve its goal?

- (A) After price increases were prohibited, drug manufacturers concentrated on producing new medications to replace existing products.
- (B) The population of Voronia rose steadily throughout the period.
- (C) Improvements in manufacturing processes enabled drug manufacturers to maintain high profit levels on drugs despite the price freeze.
- (D) In addition to imposing a price freeze, the government encouraged doctors to prescribe generic versions of common drugs instead of the more expensive brand-name versions.
- (E) After price increases were prohibited, some foreign manufacturers of expensive drugs ceased marketing them in Voronia.

(got this question wrong in class)
(picked E)

need to make sure the answer doesn't change "is happening"

For several years, per capita expenditure on prescription drugs in Voronia rose by fifteen percent or more annually. In order to curb these dramatic increases, the ministry of health prohibited drug manufacturers from raising any of their products' prices. Even though use of prescription drugs did not expand after this price freeze, per capita expenditure for prescription drugs continued to increase by a substantial percentage each year.

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- A. After price increases were prohibited, drug manufacturers concentrated on producing new medications to replace existing products --> these are allowed to cost more!!
- B. The population of Voronia rose steadily throughout the period. --> irrelevant because stats are per capita
- C. Improvements in manufacturing processes enable drug manufacturers to maintain high profit levels on drugs despite the price freeze. Profits have nothing to do with consumer expenditure
- D. In addition to imposing a price freeze, the government encouraged doctors to prescribe generic versions of common drugs instead of the more expensive brand-name versions --> this would make consumers' expenditures go DOWN!!
- E. After price increases were prohibited, some foreign manufacturers of expensive drugs ceased marketing them in Voronia. --> less spending on expensive drugs

Prohibition on price increases has happened / is true / is happening.

Normally, this would mean expenditure would NOT increase

THIS TIME, expenditures went up! has happened / is true / is happening instead.

EXPLAIN THIS

A		11/35 (30%)
B		6/35 (15%)
C		3/35 (8%)
D		5/35 (13%)
E		17/35 (48%)

We need something that explains MORE DRUG COSTS, but *isn't* more use of drugs and also *isn't* an increase in the price of existing drugs

correct answer must not change the first blank: “_____ is happening”

2. Denoma, a major consumer-electronics maker, had a sizeable decline in sales revenue for its most recent fiscal year. This result appears surprising, because electronics retailers report that although their overall sales were considerably lower than in the previous year, their sales revenue from Denoma models actually grew, largely thanks to some innovative and popular models that Denoma introduced.

Which of the following, if true, does most to explain the apparently surprising result?

- (A) Because of the need to educate the public about its new models' capabilities, Denoma's advertising spending was higher than normal over the period.
- (B) For the period at issue, Denoma's major competitors reported declines in revenue that were, in percentage terms, greater than Denoma's.

(C) A significant proportion of Denoma's revenue comes from making components for other consumer-electronics manufacturers.

(D) Unlike some of its major competitors, Denoma has no lines of business outside consumer electronics to provide revenue when retail sales of consumer electronics are weak.

(E) During the period, consumer-electronics retailers sold remaining units of Denoma's superseded models at prices that were deeply discounted from those models' original prices.

Denoma, a major consumer-electronics maker, had a sizeable decline in sales revenue for its most recent fiscal year. This result appears surprising, because electronics retailers report that although their overall sales were considerably lower than in the previous year, their sales revenue from Denoma models actually grew, largely thanks to some innovative and popular models that Denoma introduced. something that LEADS to results

Which of the following, if true, does most to explain the apparently surprising result?

For this to work, Denoma needs to sell *something else* besides its own models -- and that's what decreased.

- A. Because of the need to educate the public about its new models' capabilities, Denoma's advertising spending was higher than normal over the period. Irrelevant to revenue.
- B. For the period at issue, Denoma's major competitors reported declines in revenue that were, in percentage terms, greater than Denoma's. We don't care about Denoma's competitors.
- C. A significant proportion of Denoma's revenue comes from making components for other consumer-electronics manufacturers.
- D. Unlike some of its major competitors, Denoma has no lines of business outside consumer electronics to provide revenue when retail sales of consumer electronics are weak.
- E. During the period, consumer-electronics retailers sold remaining units of Denoma's superseded models at prices that were deeply discounted from those models' original prices.

Revenue from Denoma MODELS went up

has happened / is true / is happening.

Normally, this would mean sales would also increase!

THIS TIME, sales DECREASED

has happened / is true / is happening instead.

EXPLAIN THIS

A		3/34 (8%)
B		5/34 (14%)
C		9/34 (26%)
D		
E		13/34 (38%)

We need something that would make the overall company sales go down -- besides the co's models.

3. A popular beach has long had a dolphin feeding program in which fish are given to dolphins several times a day; many dolphins get as much as half of their food each day there. Although dolphins that first benefit from the program as adults are healthy and long-lived, their offspring have a lower life expectancy than offspring of dolphins that feed exclusively in the wild.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the lower life expectancy of offspring of dolphins feeding at the beach compared to other young dolphins?

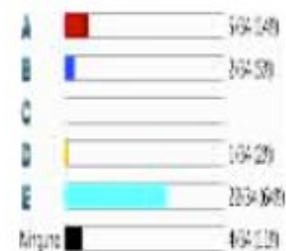
- (A) Sharks that prey on dolphins are less common in the open seas off the beach than in many other areas of the open seas where dolphins congregate.
- (B) Many of the adult dolphins that feed at the beach are females that nurse their offspring there.
- (C) The fish given to the dolphins at the beach are the same types of fish that dolphins typically catch in the wild.
- (D) Many dolphins that feed at the beach with their offspring come to the beach only a few times a month.
- (E) Adult dolphins that feed at the beach spend much less time teaching their offspring how to catch fish in the wild than do other adult dolphins.

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- D. Many dolphins that feed at the beach with their offspring come to the beach only a few times a month.
- E. Adult dolphins that feed at the beach spend much less time teaching their offspring how to catch fish in the wild than do other adult dolphins. --> The offspring will be worse at catching food

Adults in the program live longer has happened / is true / is happening.
 Normally, this would mean Next generation in the program should also live longer.
 THIS TIME, next generation doesn't live very long. has happened / is true / is happening instead. **EXPLAIN THIS**



We need some reason why the NEXT generation doesn't live as long -- a reason that DOESN'T affect the adults!!

- A: affects both adults and offsprings
- B: irrelevant

C,D: no effect

4. When a new restaurant, Martin's Cafe, opened in Riverville last year, many people predicted that business at the Wildflower Inn, Riverville's only other restaurant, would suffer from the competition. Surprisingly, however, in the year since Martin's Cafe opened, the average number of meals per night served at the Wildflower Inn has increased significantly.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the increase?

(A) Unlike the Wildflower Inn, Martin's Cafe serves considerably more meals on weekends than it does on weekdays.

(B) Most of the customers of Martin's Cafe had never dined in Riverville before this restaurant opened, and on most days Martin's Cafe attracts more customers than it can seat.

(C) The profit per meal is higher, on average, for meals served at Martin's Cafe than for those served at the Wildflower Inn.

(D) The Wildflower Inn is not open on Sundays, and therefore Riverville residents who choose to dine out on that day must either eat at Martin's Cafe or go to neighboring towns to eat.

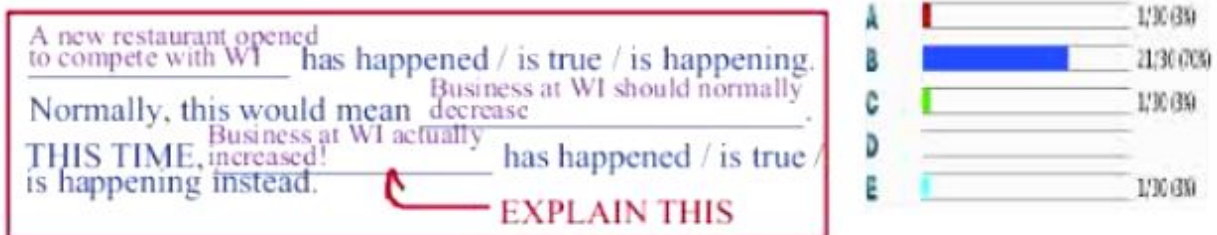
(E) A significant proportion of the staff at Martin's Cafe are people who formerly worked at the Wildflower Inn and were hired away by the owner of Martin's Cafe.

(wasn't sure which to pick, but picked the right answer in class...)

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- B. Most customers of Martin's Cafe had never dined in Riverville before this restaurant opened, and on most days Martin's Cafe attracts more customers than it can seat. ^{excess customers}
- C. The profit per meal is higher, on average, for meals served at Martin's Cafe than for those served at the Wildflower Inn.
- D. The Wildflower Inn is not open on Sundays, and hence Riverville residents who choose to dine out then must either eat at Martin's Cafe or to neighboring towns to eat.
- E. A significant proportion of the staff at Martin's Cafe are people who formerly worked at the Wildflower Inn and were hired away by the owner of Martin's Cafe



We need some way in which a competing restaurant INCREASED business at the WI!!

5. Many small roads do not have painted markings along their edges. Clear edge markings would make it easier for drivers to see upcoming curves and to judge the car's position on the road, particularly when visibility is poor, and would therefore seem to be a useful contribution to road safety. However, after Greatwater County painted edge markings on all its narrow, winding roads the annual accident rate along these roads actually increased slightly.

Which of the following if true, most helps to explain the increase in accident rate?

- A. Greatwater County has an unusually high proportion of narrow, winding roads.
- B. In bad weather it can be nearly as difficult for drivers to see the road as it is at night.
- C. Prior to the painting of edge markings, Greatwater County's narrow, winding roads already had a somewhat higher accident rate than other Greatwater County roads.
- D. Many of the accidents on narrow, winding roads involve a single vehicle veering off the road, rather than the collision of two vehicles.

E. After the markings were painted on the roads, many drivers who had gone out of their way to avoid driving on those roads at night no longer did so.

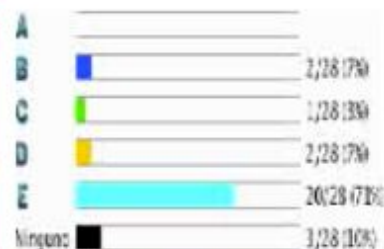
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- E. After the markings were painted on the roads, many drivers who had gone out of their way to avoid driving on those roads at night no longer did so.

More traffic on the road at night --> this could lead to more accidents.

Edge markings were painted on the roads. has happened / is true / is happening.
Normally, this would mean accident rate should decrease on these roads.
THIS TIME, there were more accidents per year. has happened / is true / is happening instead.
EXPLAIN THIS



We need SOME consequence of the edge markings that will lead to MORE accidents.

CR: Read the questions first, every question type is different, you won't know how to read the passage before you read the questions!